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2013/08/20 : CIA-RDP61-00357R000100220003-4
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

For information only.

The attached records congressional activity with respect to the Great White Fleet indicating a total of 78 congressional sponsors of resolutions supporting the proposal. I am sending a copy to Tracy Barnes. The Bureau of the Budget has advised that they have requested DOD to prepare a report on these proposals. Bureau of the Budget indicates almost unanimous adverse reaction within the Executive Department.


JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

4 August 1959

(DATE)

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4 AUG 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence**SUBJECT: Great White Fleet Proposals**

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. On 21 July 1959 twenty-two members of the House of Representatives introduced measures calling for the establishment of a Great White Fleet. Since that time twenty-two other members have introduced similar measures. Primary sponsors of the House measures are Representative Edmondson of Oklahoma and Representative Bates of Massachusetts. A list of the forty-four House sponsors is attached as TAB A.
3. Senators Humphrey and Aiken introduced a companion resolution in the Senate (Senate Concurrent Resolution 336). The total number of Senate co-sponsors is now thirty-four. They are listed in TAB B. Excerpts from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD containing discussions of these proposals are attached as TAB C.
4. The stated purposes of the resolutions (copy attached as TAB D) is to prevail upon the President to establish a fleet of naval vessels, painted white and designed and equipped to ... "render prompt emergency aid and assistance to people of other nations upon the occurrence of famine, epidemic disease, earthquake, flood, hurricane, other natural disaster, and for the purpose of combating hunger or disease of a persistent nature." Other provisions of the proposals call for:

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- a. Establishment of the fleet through the reactivation of U. S. Navy vessels and equipment now in "mothballs."
- b. Logistical support of the fleet by the Navy.
- c. Use of surplus food commodities.
- d. Invitation to appropriate private organizations to provide financial assistance and support.

5. Credit for origination of the idea, a modification of President Theodore Roosevelt's Great White Fleet, is given to Commander Frank Manson, U.S. Navy. A small scale prototype of the White Fleet, "Operation Hope," has been established largely through the efforts of Dr. William Walsh, President of the People-to-People Health Foundation. Dr. Walsh was a member of the President's People-to-People Board and [redacted] A general description of the Great White Fleet proposal and the persons affiliated with it is contained in current issues of LIFE magazine which has given its support to the idea. The two LIFE issues dealing with the subject are attached as TAB E.

[redacted]
JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

Atts - TABS A thru E

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